

**EXHIBIT A**

**July 25, 2011**

**Ed Straub, Marshall, IN**

Straub requested that the DNR resume actual publication of the hunting guide. He explained that the Department had advised him that the guide was accessible online but explained that he would not know where or how to find them even if he had access to a computer.

**Clarence H. "Woody" Williams, Newburgh, IN**

Williams offered a verbal comment but submitted the content of his comment in written form at the conclusion of the public hearing. Williams' written material is attached as Exhibit A1.

**Zeb Rush, Huron, IN**

Rush rejects almost everything proposed. He explained that he does not necessarily disagree with the proposal but noted that there are inconsistencies and areas of confusion in the rules. As an example Rush offered that safety orange is required of the deer hunter but not the coyote hunter who may be in the field during seer season despite the fact that both have equal possibility of being shot.

Rush observed that while the addition of pistol caliber rifles as legal deer hunting weapons was a good idea the manner the casing measurements provided in the rule are open to interpretation, which results in confusion about what cartridges are legal. He stated that he interpreted the language of the rule to allow only straight-wall cases but he had been told by conservation officers that bottle-necked cases were also legal. Using the 410 shotgun as an example Rush also observed that some guns are capable of shooting different caliber cartridges and this adds to the confusion.

Rush added that "if you have a handicap move to a different sport" in stating his opposition to allowing the use of crossbows to hunt deer.

**Randy Keith, Bloomington, IN**

Keith stated his opinion that any weapon that is constantly strung and shot from the shoulder by pulling a trigger is not archery.

**Jamie Bennett, Washington County, Salem, IN**

Bennett stated that he has been hunting with crossbow for 8 years. Noting that he is in a wheelchair after being shot with a gun...not a crossbow, Bennett explained that he is safety conscious. He stated that he loves to hunt deer just like a lot of other people who can't hunt with traditional archery because of physical limitations. Bennett expressed the opinion that crossbows should fall under the category of the archery license and expressed displeasure towards individuals who believed he should find another sport. Bennett noted that presently he is required to obtain doctor certification as to his disability in order to obtain a license to hunt with crossbow, which adds an additional cost of approximately \$30.00 to his hunting experiences. It is Bennett's belief that the proposed rule would eliminate the need for him to obtain that doctor certification.

Bennett stated that if deer herd reduction is the goal, the license fees should be decreased. He added that he has friends who come here from out of state who are required to pay \$150.00 to hunt for an antlerless deer. He suggested that the license fee be increased slightly but the person be allowed to take either an antlered or antlerless deer. Bennett added that it appears the Department is more interested in revenue than in the reduction of the deer population.

**Robert Nowling, Bloomington, IN**

Nowling agreed with Bennett's comment regarding the use of crossbows by individuals with disabilities.

He stated that he recently attended a meeting in Bloomington about having Bloomington classified as an urban deer zone where there were numerous suggestions for accomplishing a reduction of the deer herd.

Nowling stated that the hunting community cannot get on “opposite sides of the table” because fighting amongst the hunters will open the door to anti-hunting organizations. He suggested that no one should criticize any hunter for their choice of weapon noting particularly that anyone can become disabled or physically limited at any time.

Nowling suggested that the doe only season for archery and muzzleloader should be extended through January.

**Casey Jones, Bedford, IN**

Jones identified himself as the President of Acorn Ridge Outdoor Adventures, an outdoor filming industry. Jones stated that he is not an outfitter and he does not sell hunts; instead he is totally involved in the filming industry for entertainment

Jones noted that originally the proposal was to shorten the season but that proposal was reversed. He stated that despite the complaints that resulted in the reversal of that proposal there were a lot of people who favored those changes. He stated that there should be a “happy medium”... something between the first proposal and going back to the way it was. Jones offered that the opening day of gun season should be moved from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of November to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of November. Jones observed that the shortened seasons, included in the first proposal, would force the shooting of does because the opportunities to take trophy buck would not be as numerous. As a member of Quality Deer Management Organization Jones supported shortened seasons

Jones stated that he is not just a bow hunter but also hunts with firearms. He noted that he hunts in Illinois, Wisconsin and Kentucky as well and observed that Indiana needs to address the problem it has with antlerless deer populations.

Jones noted his support for the use of crossbows by people with disabilities but expressed the opinion that allowing crossbows during regular archery season without hunter orange poses a problem because the crossbow is a little more powerful weapon than a traditional or compound bow. Believes crossbows should be allowed to anyone during firearms season but believes disabled persons using crossbows throughout the season should be required to wear hunter orange.

**Don Mulligan, Sheridan, IN**

Mulligan stated that he was commenting on behalf of an organization, Protect Indiana Outdoor Sports. He advised that recently the organization submitted a petition with over 700 names to the Commission and the Department. Mulligan stated that there is misinformation about crossbows noting that a person with a disability is already allowed to hunt with crossbows.

Mulligan advised that his organization is unable to determine where the push for allowing crossbows has come from. He stated that he has attempted to poll the NRC members but has received no response. He stated that the organization inquired as to why the first proposal was withdrawn and received word that this resulted from the “overwhelming response” but he stated that he had been told that the Department’s and the Commission’s online tracking process was “tainted”. Mulligan explained that this lead him to question whether these rules were actually dictated by the majority of public comments.

HEARING OFFICER’S NOTE: The hearing officer inquired as to the source of the communication Mulligan referred to that indicated the Commission’s online comment form was “tainted”. After the public hearing concluded, Mulligan provided a copy of the communication for the hearing officer’s review, which is attached as Exhibit A2. The communication related solely to a Department of Natural Resources’ online questionnaire that was available from April 19 – 25. There is nothing in the communication to support a generalization that any other online public comment portal is affected.

**Joe Bacon, Indianapolis, IN**

Bacon offered a verbal comment but submitted the content of his comment in written form at the conclusion of the public hearing. Bacon’s written material is attached as Exhibit A3.

**Alan Brown, Bloomfield, IN**

Brown noted that everyone in attendance was a hunter observing that “we’re all at each other’s throats”. He also observed that everyone wants it their own way. Brown expressed his disbelief that shortening the seasons will result in the reduction in the deer population. He suggested that instead of shortening the seasons that the DNR implement a requirement to take an antlerless deer before taking an antlered deer. He stated that while this proposal was not perfect he is in support of it.

**Bill Herring, Martinsville, IN**

Herring expressed disappointment that when the first proposal came out there was such animosity between deer hunters and between the hunters and the DNR & NRC. Herring also expressed disappointment with the content of the first proposal. He noted that the present proposal is “so much better than proposal number 1” and has reduced the levels of animosity.

**Jim Jones, Paoli, IN**

Jones stated that he is a motorcyclist. He stated that southern Indiana used to be a great and scenic place to ride motorcycles. He noted that he does not hunt but has killed 4 deer, 3 with a car and 1 with a motorcycle. Jones is also a school bus driver who on average sees from 2 – 25 dead deer along the road on his 1 hour route daily. He expressed that there are deer all over the town of Paoli and suggested that instead of charging a fee for a license, a bounty should be established to greatly reduce the population.

**Jack Ryan, Mitchell, IN**

Ryan stated that he hunts in Indiana and does not care about what other states do. He is proud of Indiana for accommodating hunters with disabilities by allowing the use crossbows and ATVs. He observed that deer overpopulation is a result of access noting that public lands do not have the same problems as private lands where access is restricted. Ryan suggested that the DNR and NRC stop changing the rules to accommodate lobbying hunting groups.

**Elmer Sullivan, Orleans, IN**

Sullivan stated that he does not care what weapon anyone wants to use as long as it is legal. He suggested that the seasons be extended until the end of January for bow, crossbow and muzzleloader. Sullivan also expressed his belief that Indiana has gotten greedy and should reduce the price of deer licenses.

**Roy Overshiner, Salem, IN**

Overshiner explained that he has been a law enforcement officer for 30 years and teaches hunter education. He’s hunted since 1972. From both a “professional and hillbilly side” Overshiner stated that this proposal is “on the right track”. He also expressed the belief that a big part of the problem is access to property. He acknowledged that he did not have an answer to the access problem but agreed that lack of access is a large part of the problem with deer populations.

Overshiner observed that there has to be a plan and direction and that everyone involved in the process has to “get along.” He offered support for the rule proposal but also suggested a reduction in license fees.

**Alan Pursell, Lanesville, IN**

Pursell stated that he is a hunter and a forester for the Nature Conservancy; who gets hunters on the Conservancy’s properties as much as possible. As a forester he watches for depredation and has observed the seedlings and saplings on the Conservancy’s properties. Pursell stated that the small oaks, which are a favorite of deer are missing. Pursell concluded that a reduction in the number of deer will help with the destruction of the small oak trees.

Pursell noted that he is aware that as a result of high numbers of deer/car crashes the insurance companies have complained to the Indiana Legislature. He stated that he does not want the Legislature controlling the deer populations stating “who knows what will happen.”

Pursell remembered when seeing a deer was a great thing, noting that it is a majestic animal. Now, however, he realizes that people speak of deer as vermin. He noted a desire to return to having people see deer as the majestic animal they are.

Pursell concluded that the proposal is not perfect but it is worthy of support.

**Aaron Keiser, Campellsburg, Indiana**

Keiser stated that there is definitely an overpopulation of deer and suggested the implementation of a requirement to take an antlerless deer first as Wisconsin does. He stated that if DNR wants to make money they should charge higher license fees to out-of-state hunters who are hunting for trophies.

Keiser also questioned the restrictions on rifle cartridges noting that the 30-30, which is not legal, is just as accurate as many of the rifle calibers that are allowed.

**Rick Emerick, Hardinsburg, IN**

Emerick acknowledged that he does not know what the answer would be but noted the need to encourage property owners to allow hunting on private property. He offered that the more opportunities that are provided for kids the better the sport will be. Emerick admitted that there is always a chance that a father is going to take advantage of that to take a "monster buck" but reasoned that there will always be violators. Emerick also stated his opinion that allowing crossbows for people with disabilities is good and added that he did not personally see a reason crossbows should not be allowed throughout the season noting that it's just added people hunting. Emerick concluded that the proposal is not perfect but he supports it.

**Gerald Eads, Seymour, IN**

Eads stated that he liked the first proposal and recommended that the Department be allowed to make the rules the Department believes are appropriate. He stated that the Commission "stuck its nose where it didn't belong" Eads added that a problem with the late season for antlerless deer is that antlered deer have possibly already shed their antlers which means there will be confusion between antlered and antlerless deer resulting in the mistaken harvest of mature bucks. Eads noted that the accuracy of crossbows is different than other archery and he thinks they should not be allowed.

**Paul Vice, Seymour, IN**

Vice stated that he is a member of the Indiana Bowhunters Association and is aware that 3 Legislative Sessions ago the issue of too many deer/car crashes was raised. According to Vice, the Legislature told the Department to take action "or else". The Department attempted to address it with the first proposal and it turned into a popularity contest instead of focusing on deer reduction. Vice stated that he did not support the first proposal in the beginning but after researching it realized that the approach made sense for the reduction of deer population, which was the purpose. Consequently, he was disappointed when it was withdrawn. Vice expressed his opinion that this proposal will not reduce the deer population

**Gene Hopkins, Columbus, IN**

Hopkins introduced himself as the President of the Indiana Sportsmen's Roundtable. Hopkins stated that the rule proposal is intended to impact the antlerless deer population in Indiana. He travels to all parts of the state and realizes that some areas do not have the same excessive deer populations as other areas. Therefore, according to Hopkins, the reduction in deer population needs to be targeted to those areas where it's needed and not addressed on a statewide basis.

Hopkins advised that he was part of the task force that was assembled and that developed the first rule proposal so he understood where it came from and why it was proposed. Hopkins stated that the amendments related to the urban deer zones seem to address reducing the deer herd but the remainder of the rule changes will not result in deer reductions.

Hopkins observed that there has to be a way of forcing hunters to target antlerless deer. He acknowledged that he does not know whether the answer is education, shortened seasons or forcing hunters but does know that as long as hunters are passing up 20 -30 antlerless deer waiting on a trophy the problem with overpopulations of deer cannot be addressed. Hopkins stated, "we've got to kill does".

Hopkins agreed that access is a problem and there has to be a way to gain access to these large land-holdings noting that without access nothing that is talked about with the rules will work. He also realized that there must be a better job done of funding the Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry programs. He noted that hunters do not want to kill deer and throw them away but they can only consume so many and they cannot afford license and processing fees just to give the deer away. Hopkins suggested a mandatory \$1.00 contribution to these programs. Hopkins also noted that license fees remain too high for many people when they are hunting only for deer they will consume but the fees are especially high when hunters are being asked to multiple deer. Hopkins noted that the proposal does not address any of these issues and observed that if these things are not incorporated now the reduction in population will not result and this process will start over. He added that every time this issue is raised in the future it will likely become more contentious so he suggested doing something now.

Hopkins stated, "There's a place in the woods for everybody; we need to work together, keep emotions in check and respect each other even when we disagree."

**Michael Dodson, Hardinsburg, IN**

Dodson commented that he has a lifetime license but noted that the present license fees are too expensive. He added that it needed to be easier for hunters to check in deer and suggested that telecheck be implemented. Dodson also recommended that the "give away program" be enhanced.

**Craig Powers, Pekin, IN**

Powers advised that no one knows about the program that was implemented to locate hunters for farmers seeking to have deer hunted on their property. He suggested that an advertising campaign be undertaken to increase awareness of this program.

Powers stated that there is a lot in the proposed rule that he likes. He particularly mentioned appreciation for the two day free youth hunt and noted that the ability to hunt with rifles has been good for his daughter. Powers added that he is not a "trophy" hunter and explained that a requirement for every hunter to harvest one antlerless deer before being allowed to take a buck would aid in the reduction of the antlerless herd.

**Ken Rasche, Jasper, IN**

Rasche explained that he represented the Dubois County Sportsmen's Club. He stated the most of the club's membership are factory workers who would have had difficulty getting time off work under the shortened seasons that were advocated in the first proposal. As a result most members were opposed to the first proposal. The first proposal also caused a conflict with Thanksgiving. Rasche noted that 90% of the voting membership supported the present proposal.

Rasche observed that Dubois County was hit hard by EHD and as a result does not presently have an overpopulation of deer that other areas of Indiana struggle with. However, he agreed that the majority of complaints about overpopulation of deer come from areas that do not allow hunting. Rasche agreed with previous commenters stating that farmers are unaware of the program implemented to identify hunters to hunt their property and echoed the sentiment that advertisement of the program is desirable.

**John Beckman, Jasper, IN**

Beckman advised that he is the President of the Dubois County Sportsmen's Club, which consists of 235 members. The membership opposed the first proposal. Despite its imperfections, Beckman reported that the club's membership is in support of the present proposal. Beckman stated that a hunter's choice of weapon is an individual choice. He explained that he was raised on a farm and that farmers and hunters "need to band together."

Beckman reported that the Dubois County Sportsmen's Club began what is now a very successful hunt for the hungry program several years ago. He encouraged additional support for these programs.

**Dave Hook, Shelbyville, IN**

Hook advised that as a result of an accident he uses a crossbow to hunt. He has experienced other hunters making fun and has been called "sissy". He suggested that hunters should be respectful of one another. Hook also recommended that at the age of 50 – 55 crossbows be allowed for any hunter without a disability permit. Hook also

noted that everyone wants to shoot a buck but in Shelbyville there aren't any. He suggested that low cost antlerless deer license be sold in order to address the overpopulation.

**Pat Horner, Salem, IN**

Horner suggested that the Department needed to resume printing the Hunting Guide. He noted that he shoots the first deer that goes by and is unconcerned about a "trophy." Consequently, he believes that any requirement to take an antlerless deer before being allowed to take an antlered deer will only impact and is directed towards "trophy hunters."

Horner explained that he does not hunt with archery but with a shoulder that has been broken 3 times he did not know if he would be able if he wanted to hunt with archery. He agreed that crossbows should be allowed during the archery season.

**Roger Matney, Shelby County, IN**

Matney stated support for the first proposal that was withdrawn. He noted that there are plenty of antlerless deer licenses available adding that unless there is a means of forcing hunters to take antlerless deer it will not happen.

**Dan Terry, Mitchell, IN**

Terry stated that he began hunting when killing antlerless deer was prohibited and only one antlered deer could be harvested. He expressed the opinion that the previous rules and policies resulted in the prevalence of trophy hunting that Indiana is now attempting to address.

**Ron Burdine, Indianapolis, IN**

Burdine offered the opinion that everyone should wear hunter orange.

**Charles Emerick, Hardinsburg, Indiana**

Emerick noted that there is a common thread amongst the comments that relates to accessibility and echoed previous suggestions that farmers needed to be made aware of the program designed to identify hunters for their property. He added that antlerless licenses should be reduced in price; suggesting a cost of \$10.00. He added that hunter education is extremely important for teaching proficiency and encouraging clean shots and clean kills no matter what the hunter's weapon of choice is. Furthermore, Emerick suggested that all hunters should wear hunter orange.

**Keith Dutton, Ellettsville, IN**

Dutton noted that the Department's wildlife biologists put together a plan with the first proposal that should have been accepted. He added that Indiana employs these professionals and they should have been allowed to do their job.

**Ivan Berkenstock, Bloomington, IN**

Berkenstock stated that he is a member of the Indiana Bowhunters' Association. He explained that initially the first proposal seemed offensive but after he was educated on the purpose of the amendments it made sense. He offered that the present proposal will not have the desired results in terms of deer herd reduction and noted that this proposal is only a result of the outcry regarding the first proposal.

Berkenstock stated that each weapon type should have its own season and its own license. He added that public lands do not have the deer overpopulation that exists on private lands and noted that access to property by hunters needs to be addressed.

**Danny Burdine, Greenwood, Indiana**

Burdine stated his belief that shortened seasons will not result in the harvest of more deer. Instead, he recommended that the seasons should be lengthened to include October through January, that license fees should be decreased and that hunters be required to harvest an antlerless deer before being allowed to harvest an antlered deer. Burdine suggested that hunter orange should be worn during the entirety of the deer seasons and that the hunters be allowed to hunt with their weapon of choice.

**Toby Cheatham, Pekin, IN**

Cheatham stated that he has hunted for 25 years and began hunting at a time with taking an antlerless deer was prohibited. Therefore, he is not in the mindset of hunting antlerless deer. He offered the opinion that the only thing that will force hunters to shoot antlerless deer is the implementation of an "earn-a-buck" program, whereby a hunter is required to take an antlerless deer before being allowed to take an antlered deer. Cheatham also suggested that the license price should be reduced and that crossbows should be allowed for everyone.

Cheatham expressed his opinion that the "one buck rule" is a good management tool to increase the size of antlered deer in Indiana. He encouraged the establishment of a telecheck system advising that he has used a similar system in Kentucky describing it as "the best thing ever."

Cheatham explained that he is an Assistant Principal who applauds the opportunities for youth hunting (both turkey and deer) and advised that he is involved in a hunting club that engages in taking kids to hunt.

**July 26, 2011**

**Tim Foltz, Roanne, Indiana**

Foltz stated that he generally agrees with the rule proposal but added the suggestion that the one-buck rule should be eliminated so that hunters could take one buck during firearm season and a second during archery season. He also noted that the license fees are too high and that no one can afford to purchase all the tags Indiana allows one hunter to purchase.

In a follow-up comment, Foltz added his opposition to the first proposed rule that was withdrawn for the reason that it changed the seasons that hunters have "built their lives around." Additionally, he noted that hunting is not only about killing and because he likes to hunt, whether he kills or not, he does not approve of the first proposal, which called for shortened seasons.

**Richard Godfroy, LaFontaine, Indiana**

Godfroy stated that he likes the one-buck rule because he doesn't think Indiana has the number of big bucks that exist in surrounding states.

**Rodney Correll, Peru, Indiana**

Correll stated his belief that license fees are "steep" making it tough for the "average guy" to hunt as often as they might like.

**Jim Shelton, Peru, Indiana**

Shelton offered concern with the requirement for ground blinds to display hunter orange when occupied because the lack of hunter orange would signify when the blind was unoccupied making it a target for thieves.

Shelton added that the implementation of an "earn-a-buck" program should be considered that would require a person to harvest an antlerless deer before being allowed to harvest an antlered deer. He stated that other states have done this to enhance deer reduction efforts.

Shelton questioned the inability to use infrared equipment for retrieval and tracking of wounded deer.

**Ref Leyva, Peru, Indiana**

Leyva stated that he has hunted deer with archery, shotgun and muzzleloader since the 1980s. He questioned whether there is actual scientific evidence that the one-buck rule is having an impact on the size and quality of antlered deer. Leyva also questioned whether Indiana really wants the reputation of a having large trophy quality deer noting that the fees associated with hunting in many such states are not affordable. He stated his preference for hunters to be allowed to take 2 antlered deer, one in archery season and one in firearms season, noting that greater numbers of hunters would get out more frequently, which would increase the number of deer harvested.

**Joe Wyant, Bunker Hill, Indiana**

Wyant stated that the Department should reinstitute the sale of lifetime licenses. He explained that he wants to better control the deer on his farm to eliminate crop damage. He stated that license fees are too high and that

donations to Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry are hampered by the fees because hunters cannot afford to pay for a license just to donate the deer.

**Bruce Wakeland, Culver, Indiana**

Wakeland explained that he is a consulting forester who has watched what is happening to the trees noting that lower value trees are growing with higher quality trees are being eliminated. Wakeland added that he is disappointed with the rule proposal because "there is not much hope" that this proposal will reduce deer populations. He offered that the deer populations need to return to levels experienced in the mid-1980's. Wakeland noted additional disappointment because the "earn-a-buck" program was not included in the rule proposal and further that the rule proposal does not reduce the cost of license fees.

**Greg Eley, Marion, Indiana**

Eley offered support for the rule as proposed. He added that the proposal is not perfect but noted that with the diversity of the group commenting on the proposal there was never going to be a rule that would please everyone.

**John Hawkins, Merrillville, Indiana**

Hawkins cautioned that in the long run, by allowing the use of crossbows, the sport of hunting with traditional archery equipment will be diminished. He explained that in Ohio, where crossbows are allowed, approximately 60 -- 65% of deer are harvested with crossbows because fewer hunters are using vertical archery equipment. Hawkins also noted that this trend is negatively impacting small businesses that deal more in vertical archery equipment than in crossbows.

Hawkins stated that 10 years ago he began tying hunter orange to the corners of his ground blind because he wanted other hunters to be aware of it and to know that it was occupied.

Hawkins noted that twenty years ago, Dr. Mitchell<sup>1</sup> agreed to allow deer seasons to be extended to the first Sunday in January but refused any further extension. Dr. Mitchell's reasoned that later harvests increased the likelihood that a hunter would "open up" a deer and find a fetus. While Hawkins realized that this occurrence might not be bothersome to hunters he offered the opinion that it would be used by anti-hunters to attack the hunting sports further. He suggested that the DNR and NRC should consider these consequences carefully before proceeding with this rule proposal

Hawkins added in a follow-up comment that the entirety of Porter County was opened up as an urban deer zone and he observed that deer in the southern portion of the county will be overstressed as a result. He noted that the problem in Porter County will not be resolved by the establishment of an urban deer zone but instead action needs to be taken to allow for hunting on the National Lakeshore property. Hawkins also observed that the present rule proposal will not alter deer populations.

**Jeremy Stackhouse, Wabash, Indiana**

Stackhouse stated his opposition to the proposed rule. He offered that the extended antlerless season may result in a "few more" deer being taken but will not accomplish the herd reduction that is needed. Stackhouse observed that the present proposal has many errors and in his opinion is "only half put together."

Stackhouse added that allowing crossbows in archery season used to be alright because crossbows used to be short range weapons. He stated that present day crossbows are no longer short range weapons and technology associated with crossbows is continuing to expand. He added that while vertical bows see improvements related to noise reduction and smoothness of operation this type archery equipment is at its limit in terms of accuracy, distance and speed. Conversely, Stackhouse stated that crossbows are continuing to see improvements in accuracy at increasing distances.

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Mitchell was employed by the Department's Division of Fish and Wildlife as a Deer Management Biologist until his retirement in 2008.

With respect to the case length expansion for rifles, Stackhouse expressed that he personally does not have a problem with it. However, he and other people he has discussed it with question when it is going to stop. He questioned why a hunter should go and buy a gun fitting the specifications of the rule when they already have a 308 or 30-06 that is similar to the newer calibers being authorized.

Stackhouse, while not opposed to the requirement to place hunter orange on an occupied ground blind, agreed with the previous comment regarding the theft of ground blinds when unoccupied, which under the rule proposal will be signified by the lack of hunter orange display.

**Dean Weimer, Garrett, Indiana**

Weimer explained that he is an outdoor writer and noted his opposition to the proposed rule. He added that the first proposal would have been better in terms of accomplishing a reduction in the number of antlerless deer. He noted that Indiana's firearms season is the longest of all surrounding states except possibly Michigan adding that Ohio has a greater number of deer harvested in only 12 days of firearms hunting. Weimer added that the largest kill occurs in the first weekend of the first firearms season.

He stated that Indiana, especially the northern counties, have too many deer but reflected that the focus has been on "trophy management", which he "hates".

Weimer stated that the worst part of all that has happened is that a growing segment of the hunters believe that no one cares about their opinion. Weimer encouraged the Commission to listen to "*the people*" and not just "*the groups*".

In a follow up comment, Weimer suggested that a public education item be place in the hunting guides and brochures explaining the importance of harvesting extra antlerless deer.

**Chad Zartman, Warsaw, Indiana**

Zartman stated that there is nothing in the proposed rule to address the human mindset. He noted that the bag limits have increased, new weaponry has been added, seasons have been lengthened but none of these actions has resulted in more antlerless deer being taken. He observed that there needs to be a means of encouraging hunters to harvest more antlerless deer.

**Zach Stookey, North Webster, Indiana**

Stookey stated that he supported the first proposal that was withdrawn but opposes the present rule proposal. Stookey noted that it is hard to hunt "pressured animals" and that the greatest number of deer are taken during the first few days of a season. He observed that by increasing the number of seasons and allowing a rest period between the seasons, similar to what would have been established by the first proposal, would allow for a greater number of deer to be harvested. Stookey also offered opposition to the use of crossbows during archery season.

**Jack Alexander, Kokomo, Indiana**

Alexander offered the perspective that too many antlerless deer are being harvested. Alexander suggested that hunters be allowed to take one antlered deer in archery season and a second during firearms season. He noted that in southern states this is done with the requirement that the second antlered deer taken must be 8 point or greater. Alexander noted that a 2 buck limit would encourage the involvement of younger hunters.

Alexander noted that there are a lot of people to keep happy (insurance companies, farmers, hunters, etc.) and recognized the difficulty this presents. He applauded the decision to allow youth hunters to take a deer of either sex.

**Tim Nussbaum, Warsaw, Indiana**

Nussbaum offered a verbal comment but submitted the content of his comment in written form at the conclusion of the public hearing. Nussbaum's written material is attached as Exhibit A4.

**Phil Nussbaum, Lake James, Indiana**

Nussbaum expressed support for the first proposal that was withdrawn, while offering opposition to the present rule proposal. Nussbaum stated that he liked the emphasis placed on the harvest of antlerless deer that existed in the first proposal.

**Gary Bontrager, Noble County, Indiana**

Bontrager stated that he was a conservation officer who has observed a “big change in deer populations over the years.” Bontrager offered support for most of what Tim Nussbaum had stated and stated that he also supported the first proposal that was withdrawn but is opposed to the present proposal. He observed that the first proposal focused on the increased harvest of does.

Bontrager questioned further why a hunter is allowed to use certain caliber ammunition in pistols when the same caliber is prohibited in a rifle.

**Herb Higgins, Greenwood, Indiana**

Higgins offered a verbal comment that is reflected in a written comment submitted during the public hearing. The written comment is attached as Exhibit A5.

**Mike Clabaugh, Andrews, Indiana**

Clabaugh stated his belief that the public hearing was scheduled to discuss the rule that was actually proposed and not the first proposal that was withdrawn. The remainder of Clabaugh’s verbal comment is reflected in a written comment he submitted during the public hearing that is attached as Exhibit A6.

In a follow-up comment Clabaugh stated that crossbows are not “long-range weapons”. He observed that everyone in attendance at the public hearing is a dedicated hunter and it is the dedicated hunter that is needed. He added that there needs to be as many hunters as possible involved and in the field.

**Mary Dian Williams, Denver, Indiana**

Williams offered support for the proposed rule.

**Ron Gaumer, Logansport, Indiana**

Gaumer offered his support for crossbows only during the final three weeks of archery season. He observed that traditional bows have a distance range of 30 – 45 yards while crossbows can harvest deer from distances of 60 – 100 yards. Gaumer noted that with this difference the crossbow takes some of the sport out of archery hunting. He also expressed support for the requirement to have hunter orange displayed on an occupied ground blind.

In a follow-up comment Gaumer suggested a mechanism by which a hunter could get a reduced cost license for deer that were donated to the Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry program.

**Ed Hatch, Peru, Indiana**

Hatch stated support for crossbows noting that before becoming disabled he hunted with a compound bow. He now hunts with a crossbow but does not take a shot over 50 yards. He also noted that there are hunters who are not disabled but who are not able to use a compound bow. Hatch concluded that the allowance of the crossbow will increase the number of hunters in the field.

Hatch also noted that a large problem is that landowners will not allow hunting on their property. He added that he understands the skepticism of many landowners who have experiences with careless hunters who have shot livestock. He inquired as to the status of the Department’s program for matching up hunters and landowners.

Hatch added that only “diehard” hunters are going to get out in December, when the additional antlerless season established by the proposed rule will occur. Consequently he believes that the proposed rule will not reduce deer populations.

**Clint Kugler, Lagro, Indiana**

Kugler stated that creating hunting opportunities and making it easier for hunters to operate and expose new people to hunting should be considered. Kugler expressed that one means of doing this would be to prioritize the implementation of on-line deer check in.

**Jeff Ray, Indianapolis, Indiana**

Ray expressed opposition to the proposed rule and suggested that a five year sunset be added to the rule language.

**Jim Shelton, Peru, Indiana**

Shelton explained that the draw process for military hunts has been made too easy with the online process and suggested that the Department return to the use of cards or impose a nominal fee. Shelton observed that some people “just like to win” and enter the draw with no real intention to hunt. Charging a fee would result in participation by only serious hunters.

Shelton explained that at the age of 60 he became disabled with a shoulder injury and enjoys the opportunity to use a crossbow under a disability permit. He expressed appreciation for the expansion of the use of crossbows.

**EXHIBIT A1**

**Crossbow Proposal**

I applaud the NRC, the legislative body and the IDNR for launching an active campaign to recruit new hunters with special youth hunts, the apprentice license and now the proposal to allow all Indiana deer hunters the opportunity to use a crossbow for hunting.

As we all know we must recruit new hunters, as well as retaining the older hunters, if hunting in Indiana is to survive.

I am asking for your support of the proposal of full inclusion of crossbows during any of Indiana's hunting seasons that currently allow the use of a bow as a legal hunting tool.

There is clear and compelling evidence, from a growing number of states, that the expansion of the use of crossbows will offer significant positive benefits for the State of Indiana, from a hunter recruitment of youth, women and others. Crossbows also provides a great retention tool to keep the older bowhunter in the game longer. Even though we have a program to allow the physically challenged to use a crossbow some do not want to go to that medical expense and adopt a non-deserved stigma of "handicapped". Therefore an increasing number of older bowhunters just quit. Crossbows also can make a major impact from a fiscal standpoint and from a resource management standpoint.

Like so many other states, Indiana has been steadily losing hunters and the related revenue that hunting creates. The DNR depends on hunters to accomplish their management goals and declining numbers of hunters complicates this task. Fewer hunters also reduce the amount of revenue generated for the State and for the IDNR. Allowing the full inclusion of crossbows during archery seasons will help to reverse the trend of declining hunter numbers, as evidenced in the state of Michigan, as well as others. There is a huge number of ancillary benefits and all this without any negative impact on the resource.

As evidenced in a growing number of crossbow states (most recently Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Michigan, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Florida, Maryland & North Carolina) as well as Canadian provinces, the inclusion of crossbows in archery season will give us the opportunity to increase hunter participation, increase tourism, create new revenue streams and contribute to the responsible management of one of Indiana's most important public resources. I sincerely ask for you to support the proposal of full inclusion of crossbows and allow Indiana's hunters a choice when choosing which type of bow to use during Indiana's archery seasons.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence H. Williams  
5799 Spring Corner Rd.  
Newburgh, IN 47630-1961  
(812) 490-5250

### **Are crossbows archery?**

In the majority of the world the answer would be yes, they are archery equipment.

Only in the United States do you get some bowhunters and bowhunting organizations that don't think that crossbows are archery equipment. Of course they are "protecting their own". They do not want crossbows in "their deer woods" during "their season" killing "their deer".

The National Archery Association - the oldest archery organization on record have recognized crossbows for about 63 years.

The International Bowhunters Organization has had a crossbow division for about 8 years and it is growing every year.

The National Field Archery Association now recognizes crossbows at its Las Vegas championships.

Atlantic City Archery Tournament has had a crossbow divisions for years. That shoot was recently acquired by the NFAA, but its crossbow division is several decades old.

The Archery Shooters Association Federation recognizes crossbows as archery equipment.

These are real archery organizations. They do not allow anything but archery to compete in their tournaments.

The Archery Trade Association and its predecessor, the Archery Manufacturers Organization recognizes crossbows as archery equipment.

So does most retail dealers - almost every shop that sells archery equipment and guns have crossbows in the archery department, not the firearm counter. Go into Bass Pro or Cabela's or Dicks or Gander Mountain and see where the crossbows are kept. They are rightfully in the archery department.

Every archery catalog I receive from the retailers has crossbows in it.

Bow and Arrow Magazine carries crossbow advertising.

According to the Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and all state wildlife agencies, crossbows are archery equipment:

- Crossbows and accessories that attach to crossbows as well as crossbow arrows are defined in the Internal Revenue Code that pertains to the archery excise tax.
- The US Fish & Wildlife Service receives the archery excise tax funds - of which about 10% are from crossbows - from the IRS and allocates those dollars to the state wildlife agencies through the Pittman Robertson program.
- State wildlife agencies receive archery excise tax dollars in amounts determined by a formula that includes the number of licensed hunters (including all those who hunt with crossbows) and the area of the state.

Regardless of what the anti-crossbow people say, the government treats crossbows like archery equipment.

Crossbows date back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC. Firearms did not come on the scene until the 12<sup>th</sup> century AD. It is a physical impossibility for a crossbow to be a "hybrid" of something that would not be invented for another 1,600 years. Anti-crossbowers like to say that the crossbow has a "rifle stock", when in all reality a rifle has a "crossbow stock".

Just like a modern compound bow, a crossbow propels an arrow from the fastly forward moving string powered by a set of bent limbs. The trajectory of the arrow is very similar to that of an arrow launched by a compound bow. On the end of that arrow is the same broadhead that is used by any other hunting archer. That arrow kills that deer from lung collapse and blood loss.

**Sounds like archery to me.**

### **1996 Indiana Crossbow Survey**

In June and July of 1996 the DNR contracted a non-biased firm of Massie and Associates to conduct their Indiana deer hunter survey.

This was a totally random phone survey of 413 Indiana hunters and was conducted between June 27<sup>th</sup> and July 8<sup>th</sup>, 1996.

The question in the survey was:

"As a means of expanding hunting opportunities, do you support or oppose the legalization of crossbows for deer hunting in Indiana?"

The results were:

#### **General Attitude**

**Support – 46%**

Opposed – 38%

Neutral – 15%

#### **Early Archery**

**Support – 48%**

Opposed – 44%

Neutral – 7%

Margin of error: at a 95% level of confidence, the responses we could expect if we interviewed every Hoosier hunter range from an even 41%:41% split, "support" to "oppose", to 51% ;33%, "support to "oppose. In other, words the margin of error range demonstrates that the population leans to the "support" view.

### **2005 Indiana Crossbow Survey**

In 2005 the IDNR surveyed deer hunters in all 92 Indiana counties. 8,344 hunters returned the survey. This was a very scientific survey.

The results were:

- **49.5% supports crossbow usage in ANY archery segment**
- **34.8% who oppose crossbow usage in ANY archery segment.**

11.4 neither supported nor opposed

That is 14.7% more hunters that favored allowing crossbows in ANY archery season than opposed them..

### **2010 Indiana Crossbow Survey**

In early 2010 the DNR conducted online surveys of the Indiana deer hunters.

On the subject of crossbows in all archery seasons the results were:

**42% supported or strongly support full inclusion of crossbows**

26% were neutral

32% opposed or strongly opposed.

10% more of Indiana hunters wanted crossbows for all deer season, with a huge chunk being neutral.

### **Hunting-Indiana.com Crossbow Survey**

Last year we conducted a poll on crossbow inclusion on hunt-indiana.com and the results were

Hunt-Indiana.com Crossbow Survey

**58.2% favored crossbows in ALL archery seasons**

36% were against crossbows in ALL archery seasons

5.8% didn't care one way or another.

So, the answer to the question of whether the Indiana deer hunters want to have crossbows as another choice in archery deer hunting is a resounding YES.

## **CROSSBOWS**

Some of the anti-crossbow input that the NRC will be receiving is coming from information on the anti-crossbow North American Bowhunter Coalition website. They are quoting some Georgia and Tennessee bowhunter numbers that they say shows a drop in the number of archery hunters after inclusion of crossbows. They are saying that real bowhunters are "quitting in disgust". What they are not posting is the true extended years numbers and are leaving out explanatory information on why there was an initial drop in bowhunter tags SALES - not bowhunter numbers.

### **TENNESSEE -**

The anti-crossbow North American Bowhunter Coalition stated -- "In the state of Tennessee, adding crossbows to the archery season has resulted in reduced license sales, recreation hours and revenue."

Not true....

I've talked to Daryl Ratajczak, the Big Game Coordinator at the Tennessee WRA and he told me that the reason there was a drop in archery tags sales the first year of crossbow implementation there was because there was a 35% increase in tag prices the same year. Anyone in any DNR can tell you that any time there is a tag increase, sales will suffer the next few years.

He said that the North American Bowhunter Coalition was using his numbers off of his PowerPoint presentation and it clearly said on the bottom of that slide there was a 35% increase in all deer tag prices and that was the reason for tags sales slump, not the introduction of crossbows. He said all tags sales went down, but the archery percent drop was less than the other methods. The North American Bowhunter Coalition didn't want to reveal that because it would take away their argument.

Daryl also said that "crossbows have been a "non-issue" in Tennessee. So much for "quitting in disgust".

Brenda Griggs (Administrative Service Director of the Tennessee WRA) - "Tennessee also has several lifetime and permanent license types, and these, so I understand, make up the majority of the bow hunters. These types cover archery, muzzle loader and big game gun supplemental licenses. Customers who purchase the lifetime and permanent licenses generally are serious sportsmen.

Our license increase was effective in April, 2005; there was about a 23% surge in sales in lifetime licenses between Feb 18, the beginning of our new license year and April 9, the date the new fees took effect. We experienced about a 30% decline in sales the next year. Sales began to rebound in following years, and this year has been exceptional given the current economic climate."

Not quite the picture that the anti-crossbowers are painting, is it?

**GEORGIA -**

The anti-crossbow North American Bowhunter Coalition stated – " In 2002 the Georgia archery season was changed to an archery and crossbow season. After an initial surge in 2003 - 2004, license sales have declined steadily to levels below those when it was an archery-only season".

What the North American Bowhunter Coalition will not reveal is that Georgia had a change in license structure in 2005.

I contacted John Bowers of the GADNR and he sent me the following – "Archery hunter numbers seemed to decline between 2005-2007; however, we believe archery hunter estimates were under represented because our license year had changed in the prior years from a set license year (April 1-March 31) to a 12 months from date of purchase license year. Prior to that time period, we average about 95,000 archery hunters.

It took us about two years to adjust our statistical sampling procedures in response to the changed license year so that we could capture all archery hunters who had a valid license during the archery deer season. This is reflected in the 2007-2008 season when archery hunters increased to about 94,000. Thus, we believe that actual archery hunter numbers were in the low 90,000s during the 2005-2007 seasons.

There is absolutely no evidence or anything in our experience that indicates a significant reduction in our archery hunters numbers because "real bowhunters are quitting in disgust".

It is very important to note that there was NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE in the number of archery hunters the season before the crossbow change (96,721) and the season after the change had taken place (96,723). After that is when we had problems determining the number of hunters holding a valid license in any one season as a result of administrative license changes. There are two changes that confounded our process for estimating archery hunters. We went from a set license year to a 365-day from date of purchase year and we eliminated the required archery license. As a result, during the 2004-2007 hunting seasons, we were most likely significantly underestimating archery hunter numbers.

**2007-2008**

93,703 hunters hunted with archery equipment (archery equipment includes, crossbows, compound bows and traditional bows)

Archery hunters harvested 34,019 deer

**2008-2009**

91,234 hunters hunted with archery equipment (archery equipment includes, crossbows, compound bows and traditional bows)

Archery hunters harvested 42,880 deer

2009 – 2010

107,792 hunters hunted with archery equipment (archery equipment includes, crossbows, compound bows and traditional bows)

Archery hunters harvested 57,974 deer

The archery kill numbers keep going up and up....

I asked John Bowers if they had compiled the deer harvest data for the 2010-2011 season and he sent back – "Not yet, but harvest estimates are going to be similar or higher than the previous season."

The North American Bowhunter Coalition "data" that is being used by anti-crossbow people is only telling giving half of the story – the half that bolsters their stance.

Crossbow inclusion has been a success story in all states that have approved their use.

MICHIGAN –

Look to our Northern neighbor Michigan to see that success in action. The allowance of crossbows in their archery seasons reversed a decade long decline in bowhunter numbers. Their bowhunter numbers dropped from 380,583 in 1998 to 285,508 in 2008 for a loss of 95,075 hunters. In just two years of crossbows that decline has stopped and Michigan has gained back 21,178 hunters.

During the 2010 archery season about 90,600 hunters used a crossbow, and they harvested about 38,000 deer with the crossbow.

That is truly a hunting, hunter recruitment, game management and revenue source success story for Michigan.

In each and every state that has recently legalized or expanded their crossbow season they have had nothing but success. There have been absolutely no negatives. It is time for Indiana to join those other states and allow the Indiana hunting archers another choice in archery hunting gear.

Thank you,

Clarence H. Williams  
Newburgh, IN

## EXHIBIT A2

Prof. Don Mulligan

## 2010 Season Structure and Equipment Use Questionnaire Results

Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife  
May 14, 2010

### Introduction:

As part of the process in reviewing and revising the Indiana deer season, the Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) recently completed an online questionnaire pertaining to season structure and equipment use. This questionnaire was available for anyone interested in commenting on changes to the Indiana deer season between the dates of April 19 – 25. Questions were formatted based on suggestions and recommendations from the stakeholder committee, which was a group of organizations created to help advise the DFW on regulation changes. Prior to going online, the questionnaire was reviewed by a social scientist from Purdue University's Department of Forestry and Natural Resources to ensure the integrity of each question. The questionnaire was designed using an online provider ([www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com)), and restricted the availability of each questionnaire to one per computer. Because online surveys pose several problems in obtaining scientifically valid results, this questionnaire will be best served as a general indicator for gauging public support or opposition for various deer regulation alternatives. The DFW will be using this information along with input from the stakeholder committee and public input given as part of the administrative rule process to promulgate a deer rule package.

### Results:

A total of 9,516 responses were received.<sup>1</sup> A total of 93.3% of respondents said they were Indiana deer hunters, while 4.6% said they were not (potentially non-hunters or hunters who do not hunt in Indiana). Approximately 2.1% of respondents left this question blank.

It is difficult to break down the license type of those who responded as Indiana deer hunters, as many respondents claimed to hunt deer on multiple license types (ex. landowner exemption and resident, youth and resident, lifetime and resident, etc). As an estimate, approximately 5,300 resident license owners, 2,600 lifetime license owners, 700 landowner exempt, 300 nonresident license owners, 50 youth license owners, and 10 military exempt license holders responded to the questionnaire.

Respondents who hunted Indiana reported using the following to hunt deer: 74% use archery, 10% use crossbows, 80% use shotguns, 71% use muzzleloader, 20% use handguns, and 19% use rifles. Of those respondents, nearly 5% said they only use archery equipment, 27.5% said they only use firearms (shotgun, muzzleloader, handgun and/or rifle), while 67.5% said they use archery and firearms.

Users were asked when they would like the firearms season to open. The total response for the questionnaire favored as currently exists, followed by one week later and strongly opposed 2 weeks later.

Users were asked their preference on firearms and muzzleloader season structure. The total for the all respondents strongly favored no change the most, and strongly opposed any choice with fewer days to hunt.

Users were asked their preference on a strategically targeted antlerless only firearm season. The total for all respondents supported all options, with most supporting a 2 day October season.

Users were asked to express their views on expanding the use of crossbows. The total for all respondents supported crossbow expansion for aged 65 and older in the early archery season most, followed by use in urban deer zones, expansion into the firearms season, and expansion into all of the early archery season. There is no support for inclusion into some of the early archery season and no expansion.

Users were asked to express interest in potential license packages. Strong support was given for all proposed packages. A reduced cost bonus antlerless license available for early purchase received the highest total support (75%), followed by sportsmen's bundle: one archery, one firearms, one muzzleloader, and one bonus antlerless license for \$72 (71%), 2 bonus antlerless licenses for \$34 (66%), and 3 bonus antlerless licenses for \$49 (58%). Only 15% of respondents said they would not support one of the previous mentioned license packages.

Users were asked how many additional antlerless deer they would be willing to harvest if money was not an issue. Only 9% said they would harvest 0 additional antlerless deer, while 17% said they would harvest 1, 32% said they would harvest 2, 15% said they would harvest 3, 9% said they would harvest 4, and 17% said they would harvest more than 4.

Users were asked if there were any current restrictions that prohibited them from taking an additional antlerless deer. Respondents identified the cost of additional licenses as the most likely reason they do not harvest an additional deer. Other factors influencing antlerless harvest included the cost of processing fees, and that the family does not need additional deer. Items not perceived to be a hindrance in harvesting additional antlerless deer are time to hunt additional deer, herd cannot support additional take, and meat storage capabilities.

#### **Discussion:**

Movement of the start of the firearms season, which is one of the recommendations by the stakeholder committee, will experience the greatest resistance from a majority of hunters in general. It was clear in the questionnaire that any delay in the start of the firearms season would be significantly opposed compared to the current season. It is anticipated that due to the heavy volume of firearm hunters and the strong preference to not delay the start of the firearms season, this could be one of the most controversial aspects of the current stakeholder committee's proposal.

The reduction in the season lengths for the firearms and muzzleloader season would be strongly opposed by a majority of hunters in general. For all hunters, maintaining the status quo was the most or nearly the most favorable option. It is anticipated that due to the heavy volume of firearm hunters and the strong preference to not reduce the number of available firearms days, this could be one of the most controversial aspects of the current stakeholder committee's proposal.

The creation of a short, early antlerless firearms season as proposed by the stakeholder committee proves to be favorable to a majority of hunters. The 2 day October season was the most supported option by all respondents. It is anticipated that some hunters will speak against the creation of an early antlerless season, though dissention will likely be minimal.

Expanding the use of crossbows to the Urban Deer Zones, the firearms season, and the early archery season for those over 65 years in age, which matches the recommendation by the stakeholder committee, was supported by a majority of hunters. All three recommendations by

the stakeholder committee were the most supported by all questionnaire respondents. Minor dissention among certain hunters for expanding the use of crossbows, and additional dissention for failure to expand to completely include the early archery season, is expected..

Though exact license packages were not finalized within the stakeholder committee's final proposals, all options that were discussed and put up for response were supported. The reduced cost bonus antlerless licenses and the sportsmen's package received the most support. There was far less interest in a package that included 3 bonus antlerless licenses rather than 2 bonus antlerless licenses. Nearly 74% of Indiana hunters said they would harvest 2 or more antlerless deer if money were not an object. The reasons given by Indiana hunters for not harvesting additional antlerless deer were primarily economically driven, citing the cost of additional licenses and processing fees as the primary impediment to harvesting additional deer. Efforts to focus on reduced cost licenses or bundles should be well received by hunters.

<sup>1</sup> It was determined that there were ways to submit multiple questionnaire responses from the same computer. The initial way to counteract this deception was to remove responses with duplicate IP addresses. However, IP addresses were found to not be unique indicators of individual computers, but rather indicators of a server or network (e.g. AOL.com), allowing different users on different computers to have similar IP addresses. In total, 520 IP addresses were recorded as having duplicate responses, with a range of 2 - 150 responses per duplicate IP address (median value = 2). The total number of responses resulting from these duplicate IP addresses totaled 2,184. The duplicate IP address answers were separated and compared to the total number of responses to determine if those who potentially submitted duplicate responses would have a significant effect on the total results. There was no difference in the proportion of hunters who filled out the questionnaire (Indiana hunters or not Indiana hunters), and no difference between the proportion of equipment users who completed the questionnaire (archery only hunters, firearm only hunters, both). Seeing that the composition of respondents who were associated with duplicate IP addresses and singular IP addresses were not significantly different, it was determined that it was highly unlikely that no one individual or group of individuals would greatly influence the results. It is unrealistic to assume that the total number of responses equates to total number of respondents; however, trends reported in this summary likely reflect the opinions of those who responded to the questionnaire.

## EXHIBIT A3

## Indiana Deer Hunters Association Position

In February 2008 I represented the Indiana Deer Hunters Association(IDHA) at a Senate Natural Resources Committee meeting addressing an overpopulation of deer in specific counties in Indiana. House Representative Bill friend proposed a bill to double deer bag limits in the top thirty(30) deer/auto accident counties each year. The Senate Natural resource Committee asked the Indiana Department of Natural Resources(IDNR) to form a committee including various sportsmen groups/stakeholders of their choosing to formulate a deer reduction plan to address this issue.

In January 2010 the committee was formed and met four times over the next four months. Mark Reiter Chief of Fish and Wildlife opened the discussion stating the purpose and goal of the group stating, "The IDNR has the authority to promulgate rules concerning wildlife, we have invited you here to give input but the final decision is ours." The meetings consumed sixteen hours and a consensus was reached, IDNR had a management plan that would strategically put pressure on the female whitetail deer population in an effort to reduce the deer herd. It was determined that gun hunting was the most effective means of controlling a deer population. Adding additional seasons along with manipulating existing gun seasons had the best opportunity for success over a five year trial period. An online survey was developed to gauge hunter support, the results were 72% against moving the traditional start date of firearms season. It is interesting to note that several respondents commented several times, one respondent was responsible for over one hundred and fifty replies.

IDNR moved forward with the deer reduction plan and placed it on the Natural Resources Commission's(NRC) agenda. Prior to the preliminary hearing the stakeholder groups were asked to have a representative present and comment in support of the IDNR proposal, which we did. The NRC allowed all stakeholder groups to comment, no individual comments in favor and limited the opposition to the proposal to two individuals. NRC member Pat Early commented before preliminary approval, "The proposal as written will not pass". The proposal did receive preliminary adoption and the "Circus" began.

Two weeks into the public comment period I was assured of IDNR's dedication to the plan. An organized effort by a web site was implemented to notify firearms hunters their season was being shortened and limited buck hunting opportunities. The information was incomplete and false, IDNR had several public meetings to explain their plan, also the stakeholders had meetings supporting IDNR and answering questions. The question most sportsmen had was, "what data do you have supporting an overpopulation of deer?" IDNR nor stakeholders had an answer. The comments on the first proposal were overwhelming against changing firearm seasons

in any way. Again as in the survey, multiple comments from single individuals. In early September NRC member Pat Early called for a meeting at his office of the stakeholder group, IDNR and members of the NRC. The meeting was billed as working on a compromise proposal. Three members of the NRC were present Mr. Early, Mr. French and Chairman Pointer, what we were told was no changes to the existing season were acceptable. Mark Reiter explained that the proposal was IDNR's plan and it met the objective, he was silenced and told it was not acceptable. Mr. Early then laid out the parameters that IDNR could formulate a second proposal, after they pulled their plan at the next NRC meeting. IDNR lost their ability to manage our natural resources at this meeting, The NRC took control.

The second proposal does not address the strategic deer reduction plan at all, it is loaded with more "deer hunting opportunity". Indiana has been trying to reduce the deer herd since 1983, all by providing more opportunity. As we all are aware it has not worked. My question is, if we keep doing things the same way how can we expect a different result? Twenty seven years of adding more days hunting and new weapons and we have a growing population, we must change hunter behavior.

Most if not all hunters envision big antlers as the successful deer season, we wait patiently for that trophy buck to appear while passing several antlerless deer and smaller bucks each day. The first proposal reduced buck hunting days while adding additional antlerless days, forcing the hunter to shoot the male deer in front of him or risking an empty buck tag at the end of the season. Trophy deer management did not enter into the discussion of the work group, it was all about deer reduction male or female. Now with the second proposal we have more weapons to hunt with and more days to pick and choose the deer we want to take. The goal of a strategic deer reduction plan is lost.

One measure of success in the first proposal was a reduction of auto/deer accidents. Many of these accidents are recorded during the chase phase of the rut in late October and early November. The first proposal had a two day antlerless only firearm season prior to the chase phase. Again firearms are the most effective management tool for reducing a deer population, today the second proposal has no October firearm season. Instead we are going to add crossbows, a limited range weapon that supposedly will retain older hunter and women and children. Is this opportunity or a deer management tool? Archery equipment, conventional bows and the hybrid crossbow are recreational hunting tools, no where have they been determined a deer reduction tool. Adding crossbow to all of archery seasons, the NRC's parameter to IDNR for the second proposal, more opportunity yet nothing measurable to reduce the deer herd.

Another parameter from the NRC is to have no break in deer hunting between

firearm season and late archery/muzzleloader seasons, today a five day "rest period" for the deer herd. What is forgotten is this is also a quiet time for several other hunters who pursue small game. Many small game hunters including rabbits, quail and dog runners are limited access on private property during the archery and firearm seasons. They are allowed to hunt after the firearm season, the five day break presently allows them some time in the outdoors without encountering deer hunters. We need to share hunting time, it is not all about deer hunting opportunity. Please be aware the five day rest period is a Monday thru Friday, hardly prime deer hunting days.

We now come to another additional opportunity, increasing the case length on firearms used for deer. When first proposed the pistol cartridge rifle proposal was a case length not to exceed 1.62 inches and straight walled. After final approval it read case length 1.62 inches and straight wall was deleted, this opened the door to wildcat rounds. Today we have wildcat rounds exceeding speeds of factory load 30-06 center fire rifles. Of course these rifles are custom built and quite expensive, to increase the case length to 1.8 inches will promote more wildcatting of calibers, only to those who have expendable income to support the purchase. Opportunity for a few sportsmen, nothing to do with a deer reduction plan. We would be better served to choose a minimum caliber center fire rifle and let deer hunters use rifles manufactured and sold thru all FFA retail outlets. Studies have shown no difference in accidents between rifles and shotguns and muzzleloaders in deer hunting.

Another piece of the second proposal is a late firearm season after Christmas for antlerless deer only. This was included in the original proposal, it was determined that with a reduction of buck hunting days people would take advantage of the season to fill a freezer should the hunter not be successful earlier. With a status quo on present buck hunting opportunities hunters have told me, "I'm not getting up on a cold rain/snow day in December to just shoot a doe." Again we have a season that fell within the NRC parameters that is an additional opportunity, yet it will do nothing to strategically reduce the deer population.

We wish to make it very clear that the Natural Resources Commission interfered with IDNR's management plan to reduce the deer heard per a legislative request. Instead we have a "hunter opportunity" plan that is doomed to fail as a management tool. As Mark Reiter said in our original meeting, "The IDNR has the authority to promulgate rules concerning wildlife, ..... that was until the NRC took over the process. IDNR by statute is charged with the management of our natural resources for all citizens of Indiana, not just for the hunting populations wishes.

The Indiana Deer Hunters Association asks that the original proposal generated by our paid professional biologists employed by the state of Indiana be revived and

approved, or let the seasons remain status quo and the state legislature will in the future control wildlife management.

Respectfully;

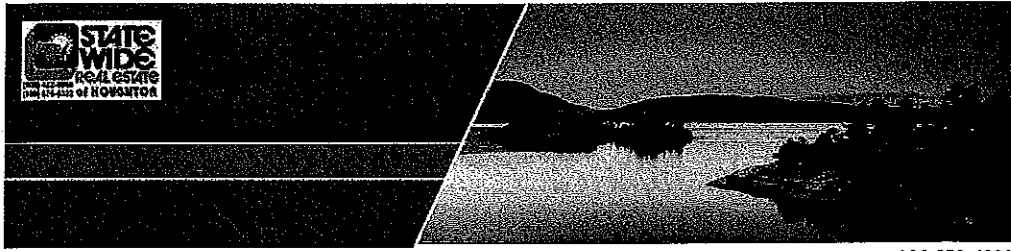
Joe Bacon

President IDHA

**EXHIBIT A4**

Google.....Haven't shot my buck yet.

**\*\*Documentation that people will not shoot does in an effort to just shoot a buck or make their sole quest in hunting to shoot a buck.....and if they have time.....shoot a doe later, if at all. This human behavior is WIDE spread in the deer hunting community and was the core theme on what motivated most in Proposal 1.0 to not like about it. Proposal 1.0 addressed this human behavior problem in deer hunting as they lessened the # of days to hunt a buck.....and more days/holidays to hunt a doe. Proposal 1.0 was a responsible plan and those that did not want to be responsible in they way they hunt to address the population problem wanted it thrown out.**



906-370-4898

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 MTU Campus Cam  
 Mackinac Bridge Cam

## Forestry

The Forestry Journal  
 Northwoods Forest Management



## THE HUNTING JOURNAL

**December 5th, 2010.** What a way to end the hunting season! I was sitting on the edge of the field at the new hunting property, and saw several does throughout the night, and a small 4 pointer. Right at last light, a big buck appeared on the edge of the field, and I shot him with my muzzleloader. I was very excited when I found him this morning. The buck weighed in at 170 lbs even. He has 15 scorable points, and is my biggest buck to date. My first muzzleloader deer ever! Here is the video, and I hope that you've enjoyed the hunting journal for 2010! **UPDATE:** My buck ended up officially scoring 148 4/8, and is currently the #1 Upper Peninsula Muzzleloader buck for 2010 according to the Commemorative Bucks of Michigan. I don't think I'll ever top this deer, what an exciting year!

**December 2nd, 2010.** Rifle season is here and gone. So far it looks like the harvest is slightly up this year from last year, but still quite low as compared to a few years ago. I've got a new property that I just started hunting, and I can't believe the deer I am seeing! A few days ago, I saw 61 deer in one day! It has been really fun. I am going to hunt this property extensively with the muzzleloader, so that should be really fun. There have been several new additions to the 'buck pole', so check that out as well. Here is the latest video. Keep checking in as I think muzzle season may be exciting!

**November 24th, 2010.** We finally got about 4 inches of snow on the ground, and I was anxious to get out in the woods, even though I'm still coughing quite a bit. I went to my Otter River spot in Baraga county. There were lots of tracks on the food plot, and the spot hadn't been hunted since early November, so I was pretty excited. I only ended up seeing one deer, but it was a buck. Here is a short video of the buck. Also, be sure to check out the 'buck pole', I've added a few more pics. Keep them coming!

**November 21st, 2010.** I've still been pretty sick, and my hunting time has been very limited. I went out Saturday night, and never saw a deer. Tonight I hunted close to the cabin here, and saw a doe and fawn. I'm looking forward to getting some snow, and hopefully that will get the deer movement going. My trail cameras are showing lots of nighttime deer movement. Be sure to check out the 'buck pole', as I've added lots of new buck pics. Hope to feel better soon!

## Forestry in Action!

**November 17th, 2010.** Rifle season has begun, and the deer movement will be very different for the next couple weeks. The conditions seemed good for the opener this year, with a nice amount of snowfall just in time for opening morning. I heard on the radio of some nice bucks being checked in, but I don't have enough information yet to hear how it is going compared to last year. I only saw 3 deer opening day, and one the next. I did get some nice footage though. Here is [a video](#) from one of my last bowhunts of November, as well as good footage from opening day.

**November 11th, 2010.** Tonight didn't turn out to be very exciting. I went out to my clear-cut spot, where I got my buck on opening day this year. I was setting by 2:00 pm, and never saw a deer until dark. One lone doe moved across the food plot like a shadow right before I was ready to climb down out of my tree. It is hardly to believe that bowseason is almost over.

**November 9th, 2010.** Today was warmer than yesterday, but this time of year, you should be in the woods as much as possible. I got set pretty early at the Otter River spot. There was no deer movement at all until about 45 minutes before dark. A doe and two fawns came onto the food plot and started grazing. About 20 minutes later, they kept looking into the woods, and I could soon hear a deer approaching. It turned out to be a buck, a pretty tall five pointer, but just a yearling. He chased the doe just a little bit, and then went to grazing as well. I did hear another deer moving at dark, but could never tell what it was. I wasn't expecting much in the warm weather, but at least I saw some action.

**November 8th, 2010.** Tonight was very warm, in the high 50's. I wasn't expecting much, but the wind direction was right to hunt the 'deep woods river bottom' spot. I actually saw 5 different deer moving through the woods on my way to my stand. Once I was actually in the stand, I had two different bucks hanging around my stand most of the night. They definitely have the rut on their mind. They were both checking and making scrapes. Here is the [video clip](#) of their scraping activity.

**November 7th, 2010.** I was able to get out twice this weekend. Friday night I went to the Toivo Spot, and noticed lots of fresh scrapes around my stand. After about an hour, a doe jumped the creek, and passed by me. Later on, I heard some thrashing in the leaves, and noticed a narrow raked 2.5 year old 8 pointer making a scrape. He proceeded to freshen several scrapes around my stand. I did manage to get some video footage of him. Later on, I saw a doe and a fawn, and that was it for the night. I checked my trail camera later on, and there are a few different nice bucks checking those scrapes, but strictly after dark at this point. Saturday night I went to the new food plot at the Otter River spot. Earlier in the week I got some nice trail camera pics of a nice 8 pointer hanging around the spot. I ended up seeing three does, a coyote, a bald eagle, and an unidentified deer that hung up behind the doe at dark. The big deer never came out of the thick aspen, and I'm willing to bet it was a buck, if not the nice 8 pointer. Here are [some clips](#) of the footage I got over the weekend. I'm hoping to hunt hard this week!

**November 2nd, 2010.** Early November can make for some great deer hunting. I've been seeing some movement, but no big bucks for the last couple of days. Monday night I went to the clear-cut spot, and only saw one deer, a pretty nice six-pointer. Tonight I went to my deep woods river bottom spot, and I was pretty optimistic as I counted 12 different fresh rubs near my stand, and a few were on very big trees, an indication of a mature buck in the area. I ended up seeing six deer move through

tonight, and two were yearling bucks. None of the deer tonight came close to my tree, but were moving through about 80 yards away. I'm looking forward to the rut activity increasing.

**October 31st, 2010.** I had a pretty exciting weekend of hunting. Last night I hunted the "Toivo Spot", and saw a spikehorn and a couple of does. Gary hunted near the cabin, and didn't see anything. Friday night Gary hunted the Otter River spot, and saw a spikehorn, and two does. I hunted my deep woods river bottom spot that night, and had lots of action. I jumped two deer walking in to the stand, and I could see that one was a buck. I wasn't setting in the stand hardly thirty minutes, and a nice little yearling buck, maybe a five pointer, came by me. Later on, two does came by on a different trail. Then, a tall three pointer came down the same trail. About five minutes later, I saw a buck coming my way that was really tall and wide. I filmed him briefly, and then put my camera away, to get my bow ready. I figured him to be an 8 point with about a seventeen inch spread. As he got closer, I noticed that the buck didn't have brow tines! Without the brow tines, he is technically a six-pointer. With our restricted deer license in Michigan, your second buck has to have at least 4 points on a side. I had to let him walk! He is certainly the biggest buck that I have ever passed up. Right after he passed on by, I noticed another buck going a different direction that wasn't as big, but was a very nice one as well. I usually only see one or two bucks a year at this spot, so seeing this many bucks was pretty interesting. Watch the [video here](#).

**October 25th, 2010.** We are supposed to get a major storm tonight, so I figured that the deer would either be very active, or not active at all. I went to the Otter River spot, where I have new foodplot, and lots of trail pics of deer. I never saw a deer. They just weren't moving tonight at all. I found my trail camera lying on the ground, and cracked in two places where a bear got ahold of it. The camera still seems to be working. I don't know why bears like to chew up those cameras, just curious I guess. I'm anxious for this storm to pass over, so I can start hunting hard, as we are entering the 'pre-rut'.

**October 21st, 2010.** Today was pretty windy, but with the very cool temperatures, I couldn't resist going out hunting. I went to my clear-cut spot tonight, but it was mostly uneventful. A little button buck fawn came by me a little before dark, and then about 20 minutes later, a mature doe appeared. At dusk, she kept acting like she was seeing something out in the clear-cut, but I never did see what it was. I still have two different spots that I haven't even hunted yet this season, so I still have plenty of good hunts left.

**October 18th, 2010.** The conditions were quite nice tonight, cool with a light breeze. I hunted my deep woods river bottom spot, where I have only seen 3 deer in the last two years, and two of them were shooter bucks. Tonight a group of four does and fawns moved through, all at once. That is the most deer I've ever seen there in one night. Like I said, I don't usually see a lot of deer, but when I do, the chances of it being a nice buck are good. We are getting close to that time of year where the bucks are going to start being more active, rubbing and scraping, and getting ready for the breeding season. Until next hunt.

**October 17th, 2010.** Today was very windy, and not very good conditions for deer movement. However, since I haven't been able to get out as much as I've wanted lately, I thought I better go hunting any chance I get. Tonight I went to my food

plot/clear-cut spot, the same stand where I got my first buck earlier this season. I wasn't expecting much with the high winds, and I didn't see much. Finally right at dark, the wind died down, and a couple of deer came within view. One was a fawn, the other was a 2.5 year old buck, with a pretty good sized body. I did manage to videotape him for a bit, although the footage is quite dark. Check out the [video here](#). I'm looking forward to hunting more and more as October winds down.

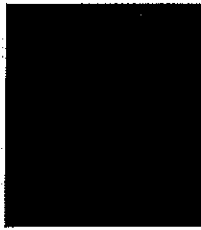
**October 13th, 2010.** Tonight I went to the Toivo Spot. This deep woods spot used to be my #1 spot for seeing big bucks, but last year it was terribly slow. Tonight was a better start to the season for this spot. Lots of sign, including two scrapes were present within sight of my stand. At about 6:30, I heard leaves crunching behind me as a deer approached. My heart started pumping a bit, especially since I hardly ever see does or fawns at this spot, usually only bucks. The deer turned out to be a healthy looking four pointer, so I proceeded to capture some video footage of him. After that I didn't see much more than a ruffed grouse. Then, right at dark, I heard a loud twig snap as a large deer slowly approached from the north. I could tell it was a nice buck, but this deer literally took 20 minutes to cover the 70 yards between him and I. I tried to videotape him, but it didn't turn out at all in the darkness. By the time he was within bow range, it was way past legal shooting light, so there was nothing I could do. I waited extra long in the stand afterwards, just to make sure I could sneak out without disturbing him. Maybe he'll come in earlier next time. At least it is nice to know that there are good ones around. Here is a [short video](#) of some of the deer I saw downstate, and the four pointer that came in tonight. I spent a long time tonight updating the movie making software on my computer, in order to be able to publish these clips in High Definition. Hopefully it worked. When you turn on the youtube video, be sure to go down to the bottom right corner of the video, and change the playback quality to '1080 HD'. My new camera takes great video. You can also make the video larger, or full screen if you like. Enjoy!

**October 12th, 2010.** I'm sorry that there hasn't been any excited updates over the last week or so. We had to travel to lower Michigan for an anniversary party for my grandparents. I did manage to get in one hunt on my brother's property in Osceola County. I saw about 5 deer that night, all does and fawns. I just got back to the U.P., and can't wait to get back out hunting. Some of my spots are looking very good. I just need to get caught up on work, and should be bringing back some deer footage within the next few days. I can't wait to get out in the woods!

**October 3rd, 2010.** The hunting journal is back for 2010, and off to a fast start! I just returned from hunting the 'deep woods river bottom spot', where I shot my biggest buck ever last year. I never saw a deer. However, lets rewind to opening day, October 1st, where I had a little more action. I went to my clearcut spot opening morning. I ended up seeing a spikehorn, and a six pointer, and that was it for the morning. I went right back to that spot in the evening, and had a little button buck fawn come in early. I was surprised to never see another deer the rest of the night, until right before dark. I heard a twig snap to my left, and here came a nice buck. I ended up making a less than perfect shot, so I decided that I had better wait until morning to try to find the buck. After four difficult hours of tracking, I finally located my deer. He ended up weighing 160 lb field dressed. It is nice to already have some venison this early in the season. I still have another tag, and lots of good spots this year, so keep checking in! Here is the [video footage](#) from opening weekend, and a [pic of my buck](#).

Google....."Will not shoot does"

There are still many in the deer hunting community that will not shoot does.....and easy to find them typing/blogging and advertising this concept. Again, Proposal 1.0 knew that this was a human behavior trait that would need to be addressed. Proposal 1.0 implemented earlier access to shooting does in the season with a gun which is the most efficient weapon to harvest deer, implemented more days to harvest does, and implemented more weekends and holidays to harvest does. Those that were only interested in buck hunting.....and keeping the # of days to hunt a buck in Indiana the same (which is currently the highest in any Midwestern state).....wanted Proposal 1.0 sidelined.



## Our Philosophy on Deer Hunting

*"To create an atmosphere of friendliness and fellowship, where our staff and guides are part of the hunting experience, and share in the successes or failure of the hunt. To do the very best we can, knowing that a lot of the time our efforts will be defeated, that there is always more to learn for both guides and hunters alike and that it should always be fun!"*



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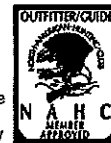
Friends of Northern Outdoors

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HOME

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Our philosophy on deer hunting has created a unique atmosphere, and resulted in many trophy white tail enthusiasts from across the country coming back year after year to meet old friends who they only see once a year. A deer hunting camp is supposed to be fun, one of friendship and camaraderie. We do not want anyone to feel he has to prove himself, only that he is a good sport and enjoys himself. When the misses and screw-ups can be as funny and interesting as the successes, then a hunting camp is at its very best. Every year we meet new people who will come back again and again, and every year we lose some people who think the week was a failure because they did not get a deer. Trophy whitetail hunting is a hard, mentally punishing sport where a person is faced with defeat day after day and sometimes season after season. There are expert hunters and novice hunters, but lady luck can shine on the worst and shut out the best, and sometimes she will do it for what seems an unreasonable amount of time. It is inevitable we get hunters that arrive in good spirits and within a few days become upset because they have been unsuccessful. If there is any sport in which a man should not equate having a good time with success, it is trophy white tail deer hunting. Hunting is the oldest game in the world; the very first game man ever played. Over millions of years mother nature has seen to it that certain species have the odds stacked in their favor. We all know what happened to species that could be hunted with high success. Whitetail deer are probably the greatest big game animal on the planet. There is absolutely no animal more challenging to bag under fair chase rules than a trophy whitetail buck. For most people it is a once in a lifetime event. With this in mind, it only makes sense to approach the hunt as a good time and the bagging of a trophy deer as a bonus. When you hunt with Northern Outdoors it is assumed you will not shoot an antlerless deer. We do not shoot does regardless of whether you have a permit or not. Hunting is an important part of our lives and we do everything we can to ensure its long term viability. Although not a strict policy, we also encourage our hunters to pass up all spikes, forkhorns, and small basket-racked bucks. During the past five years, our hunters have passed up dozens and dozens of small-racked bucks and, as a result, we are taking more and more wall hangers. The bucks displayed on our site are proof of the success of this effort. If we had been harvesting these deer when they were yearlings, they wouldn't be on the site this year. Some of our hunters have been with us for years, and enjoyed outrageous success while others have suffered total failure. What has mattered to the best of them has been the experiences, the stories, the events, and the camaraderie. We cannot promise you success in bagging a trophy. We can only promise you that no one works harder, nor does anyone come close to our success.



Over the years we have seen it all; the good, the bad, and the ugly. It is the sportsmen that make it all worthwhile. Those men who can exhibit grace, dignity, and a sense of humor when they lose as well as when they win. They are what a hunting camp is all about, and it is for this type of hunter that Northern Outdoors runs its hunts.

OUTFITTER/ GUIDE/, NAHC Member Approved



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(800) 765-7238 (US & Canada)  
(207) 663-4466 (all others)  
info@mainedeerhunting.com

IDNR Survey that was compromised and the Computer input was full of deception.

IDNR Brass was aware of the deception in this survey.....and as Mitch Marcus outlined in the e-mail.....the survey was one of 3 entities (Stakeholder input, IDNR survey, and public input) that was going to be used to promulgate the deer rule package. The IDNR knew the Survey had been misused.....as one of the tools they were using to gauge support or non-support.

**chapmanacres**

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 CC: KHoffman@dnr.IN.gov, GMCCOLLAM@dnr.IN.gov  
 Sent: 5/17/2010 9:19:39 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time  
 Subj: results of on-line deer questionnaire

Deer Stakeholder Committee Representatives,

Attached please find a summary of responses to the deer questionnaire. This questionnaire was available between the dates of April 19 – 25 for anyone interested in commenting on potential changes to the Indiana deer season. Questions were formatted based on suggestions and recommendations from our deer stakeholder meetings. Prior to going online, the questionnaire was reviewed by a social scientist from Purdue University's Department of Forestry and Natural Resources to ensure the integrity of each question. The questionnaire was designed using an online provider ([www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com)). Because online surveys pose several problems in obtaining scientifically valid results, this questionnaire will be best served as a general indicator for gauging public support or opposition for various deer regulation alternatives. ~~The DFW will be using input from the deer stakeholder meetings results of this questionnaire and public input given as part of the administrative rule process to promulgate a deer rule package.~~



The Division expects to get a wild bulletin out this week summarizing results of the deer questionnaire.

Mitch Marcus, Wildlife Staff Specialist

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7/25/2011

## 2010 Season Structure and Equipment Use Questionnaire Results

Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife  
May 14, 2010

### Introduction:

As part of the process in reviewing and revising the Indiana deer season, the Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) recently completed an online questionnaire pertaining to season structure and equipment use. This questionnaire was available for anyone interested in commenting on changes to the Indiana deer season between the dates of April 19 – 25. Questions were formatted based on suggestions and recommendations from the stakeholder committee, which was a group of organizations created to help advise the DFW on regulation changes. Prior to going online, the questionnaire was reviewed by a social scientist from Purdue University's Department of Forestry and Natural Resources to ensure the integrity of each question. The questionnaire was designed using an online provider ([www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com)), and restricted the availability of each questionnaire to one per computer. Because online surveys pose several problems in obtaining scientifically valid results, this questionnaire will be best served as a general indicator for gauging public support or opposition for various deer regulation alternatives. The DFW will be using this information along with input from the stakeholder committee and public input given as part of the administrative rule process to promulgate a deer rule package.

### Results:

A total of 9,516 responses were received.<sup>1</sup> A total of 93.3% of respondents said they were Indiana deer hunters, while 4.6% said they were not (potentially non-hunters or hunters who do not hunt in Indiana). Approximately 2.1% of respondents left this question blank.

It is difficult to break down the license type of those who responded as Indiana deer hunters, as many respondents claimed to hunt deer on multiple license types (ex. landowner exemption and resident, youth and resident, lifetime and resident, etc). As an estimate, approximately 5,300 resident license owners, 2,600 lifetime license owners, 700 landowner exempt, 300 nonresident license owners, 50 youth license owners, and 10 military exempt license holders responded to the questionnaire.

Respondents who hunted Indiana reported using the following to hunt deer: 74% use archery, 10% use crossbows, 80% use shotguns, 71% use muzzleloader, 20% use handguns, and 19% use rifles. Of those respondents, nearly 5% said they only use archery equipment, 27.5% said they only use firearms (shotgun, muzzleloader, handgun and/or rifle), while 67.5% said they use archery and firearms.

Users were asked when they would like the firearms season to open. The total response for the questionnaire favored as currently exists, followed by one week later and strongly opposed 2 weeks later.

Users were asked their preference on firearms and muzzleloader season structure. The total for the all respondents strongly favored no change the most, and strongly opposed any choice with fewer days to hunt.

Users were asked their preference on a strategically targeted antlerless only firearm

season. The total for all respondents supported all options, with most supporting a 2 day October season.

Users were asked to express their views on expanding the use of crossbows. The total for all respondents supported crossbow expansion for aged 65 and older in the early archery season most, followed by use in urban deer zones, expansion into the firearms season, and expansion into all of the early archery season. There is no support for inclusion into some of the early archery season and no expansion.

Users were asked to express interest in potential license packages. Strong support was given for all proposed packages. A reduced cost bonus antlerless license available for early purchase received the highest total support (75%), followed by sportsmen's bundle: one archery, one firearms, one muzzleloader, and one bonus antlerless license for \$72 (71%), 2 bonus antlerless licenses for \$34 (66%), and 3 bonus antlerless licenses for \$49 (58%). Only 15% of respondents said they would not support one of the previous mentioned license packages.

Users were asked how many additional antlerless deer they would be willing to harvest if money was not an issue. Only 9% said they would harvest 0 additional antlerless deer, while 17% said they would harvest 1, 32% said they would harvest 2, 15% said they would harvest 3, 9% said they would harvest 4, and 17% said they would harvest more than 4.

Users were asked if there were any current restrictions that prohibited them from taking an additional antlerless deer. Respondents identified the cost of additional licenses as the most likely reason they do not harvest an additional deer. Other factors influencing antlerless harvest included the cost of processing fees, and that the family does not need additional deer. Items not perceived to be a hindrance in harvesting additional antlerless deer are time to hunt additional deer, herd cannot support additional take, and meat storage capabilities.

#### **Discussion:**

Movement of the start of the firearms season, which is one of the recommendations by the stakeholder committee, will experience the greatest resistance from a majority of hunters in general. It was clear in the questionnaire that any delay in the start of the firearms season would be significantly opposed compared to the current season. It is anticipated that due to the heavy volume of firearm hunters and the strong preference to not delay the start of the firearms season, this could be one of the most controversial aspects of the current stakeholder committee's proposal.

The reduction in the season lengths for the firearms and muzzleloader season would be strongly opposed by a majority of hunters in general. For all hunters, maintaining the status quo was the most or nearly the most favorable option. It is anticipated that due to the heavy volume of firearm hunters and the strong preference to not reduce the number of available firearms days, this could be one of the most controversial aspects of the current stakeholder committee's proposal.

The creation of a short, early antlerless firearms season as proposed by the stakeholder committee proves to be favorable to a majority of hunters. The 2 day October season was the most supported option by all respondents. It is anticipated that some hunters will speak against the creation of an early antlerless season, though dissention will likely be minimal.

Expanding the use of crossbows to the Urban Deer Zones, the firearms season, and the early archery season for those over 65 years in age, which matches the recommendation by the stakeholder committee, was supported by a majority of hunters. All three recommendations by the stakeholder committee were the most supported by all questionnaire respondents. Minor

dissension among certain hunters for expanding the use of crossbows, and additional dissension for failure to expand to completely include the early archery season, is expected..

Though exact license packages were not finalized within the stakeholder committee's final proposals, all options that were discussed and put up for response were supported. The reduced cost bonus antlerless licenses and the sportsmen's package received the most support. There was far less interest in a package that included 3 bonus antlerless licenses rather than 2 bonus antlerless licenses. Nearly 74% of Indiana hunters said they would harvest 2 or more antlerless deer if money were not an object. The reasons given by Indiana hunters for not harvesting additional antlerless deer were primarily economically driven, citing the cost of additional licenses and processing fees as the primary impediment to harvesting additional deer. Efforts to focus on reduced cost licenses or bundles should be well received by hunters.

<sup>1</sup> It was determined that there were ways to submit multiple questionnaire responses from the same computer. The initial way to counteract this deception was to remove responses with duplicate IP addresses. However, IP addresses were found to not be unique indicators of individual computers, but rather indicators of a server or network (e.g. AOL.com), allowing different users on different computers to have similar IP addresses. ~~was 620 IP addresses~~ ~~over 1,000 responses with a range of 2-1,500 responses per duplicate IP address (median~~ ~~value = 2). The total number of responses excluding duplicate IP addresses was 1,104.~~ The duplicate IP address answers were separated and compared to the total number of responses to determine if those who potentially submitted duplicate responses would have a significant effect on the total results. There was no difference in the proportion of hunters who filled out the questionnaire (Indiana hunters or not Indiana hunters), and no difference between the proportion of equipment users who completed the questionnaire (archery only hunters, firearm only hunters, both). Seeing that the composition of respondents who were associated with duplicate IP addresses and singular IP addresses were not significantly different, it was determined that it was highly unlikely that no one individual or group of individuals would greatly influence the results. It is unrealistic to assume that the total number of responses equates to total number of respondents; however, trends reported in this summary likely reflect

the opinions of those who responded to the questionnaire.

NRC feedback page filled with multiple feedback from single individuals.....these are examples of the “bragging” that has been going on from Indiana Internet sites that they had found ways to “stack the deck” with multiple feedback entries.....and encouraging others to do so.

HUNTING INDIANA - NRC now taking input on the deer proposal

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Jul 18, 2011, 3:29pm



http://huntingindiana.proboards.com/index.cgi?board=deerhunting&action=display&threa... 7/18/2011

HUNTING INDIANA - NRC now taking input on the deer proposal

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Search

**Author**

**Woody Williams**  
Administrator

member is offline



Joined: Jul 2005  
Gender: Male ♂  
Posts: 27,185  
Location: Warrick County

**Topic: NRC now taking input on the deer proposal (Read 1,548 times)**

**NRC now taking input on the deer proposal**

« Thread Started on Jan 12, 2011, 5:48pm »

You may now give input on this proposal to the NRC at -

<http://www.in.gov/nrc/2377.htm>

It is under the Deer Amendments..

Do it today....

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**steve46511**  
Major Contributor

member is offline



Joined: Jul 2010  
Gender: Male ♂  
Posts: 608  
Location: Marshall County

**Re: NRC now taking input on the deer proposal**

« Reply #1 on Jan 12, 2011, 6:17pm »

Done, thanks Woody

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"Simple is complicated enough for me, TYVMI"

**jjas**  
Senior Member

member is offline

**Re: NRC now taking input on the deer proposal**

« Reply #2 on Jan 12, 2011, 6:21pm »

Done. Thanks for the link.

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Joined: Mar 2010  
Posts: 173

**hornharvester**  
Global Moderator

**Re: NRC now taking input on the**

<http://huntingindiana.proboards.com/index.cgi?board=deerhunting&action=display&threa...> 7/18/2011

HUNTING INDIANA - NRC now taking input on the deer proposal

Page 3 of 7



member is offline



Let the IDNR manage our wildlife, not small special interest groups!

Joined: Jul 2005  
Posts: 5,425  
Location: Huntington county

shooterbuck  
Guest

**deer proposal**  
« Reply #3 on Jan 12, 2011, 6:48pm »

Done again.....h.h..

[Link to Post](#) - [Back to Top](#) Logged

**Re: NRC now taking input on the deer proposal**  
« Reply #4 on Jan 12, 2011, 6:54pm »

Done again as well

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realhunter  
Full Member  
  
member is offline

**Re: NRC now taking input on the deer proposal**  
« Reply #5 on Jan 12, 2011, 7:31pm »

Done

[Link to Post](#) - [Back to Top](#) Logged

Joined: Nov 2007  
Gender: Male   
Posts: 55  
Location: unknown

firehawk1  
Senior Member  
  
member is offline

**Re: NRC now taking input on the deer proposal**  
« Reply #6 on Jan 12, 2011, 8:13pm »

Dittos on the "DONE"!



Resident Ruger lover

Joined: Nov 2010  
Gender: Male   
Posts: 104  
Location: Not where I want to be

huxbux  
Guest

**Re: NRC now taking input on the deer proposal**  
« Reply #7 on Jan 12, 2011, 8:21pm »


« Last Edit: Jan 12, 2011, 8:14pm by firehawk1 » [Link to Post](#) - [Back to Top](#) Logged

<http://huntingindiana.proboards.com/index.cgi?board=deerhunting&action=display&threa...> 7/18/2011

HUNTING INDIANA - NRC now taking input on the deer proposal

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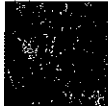
Done. Was glad to see state, organization and security code entry required in order to prevent any shenanigans.

[Link to Post](#) - [Back to Top](#)  Logged

**Decatur**  
Global Moderator



member is offline




High Fence is NOT "Hunting",  
It's killing. There's a difference!

**Re: NRC now taking input on the deer proposal**

« Reply #8 on Jan 12, 2011, 8:43pm »

Done!

Joined: Oct 2005  
Gender: Male   
Posts: 16,023  
Location: Decatur, Indiana


**jajwrih**  
Major Contributor



member is offline




"Government exists to protect us from each other. Where government has gone beyond its limits is in deciding to protect us from ourselves." ~ Ronald Reagan

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**Re: NRC now taking input on the deer proposal**

« Reply #9 on Jan 12, 2011, 9:26pm »

done!

Joined: Aug 2005  
Gender: Male   
Posts: 2,607  
Location: Morgan County

**kodiak50**  
Major Contributor




member is offline


One shot, one kill.

**Re: NRC now taking input on the deer proposal**

« Reply #10 on Jan 13, 2011, 6:02am »

Done

[Link to Post](#) - [Back to Top](#)  Logged

Joined: Aug 2005  
Gender: Male   
Posts: 785  
Location: Kos. County

**Hoosier Hunter**  
Major Contributor




member is offline

And what country can preserve its liberties, if its rulers are not warned from time to time, that this people preserve the spirit of resistance? Thomas Jefferson  
Bowtech/Diamond Nit

**Re: NRC now taking input on the deer proposal**

« Reply #11 on Jan 13, 2011, 7:04am »

DONE!

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<http://huntingindiana.proboards.com/index.cgi?board=deerhunting&action=display&threa...> 7/18/2011

HUNTING INDIANA - NRC now taking input on the deer proposal

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Joined: Aug 2005  
Gender: Male   
Posts: 2,568  
Location: S.W. Bartholomew County

ukwil  
Full Member



member is offline

**Re: NRC now taking input on the deer proposal**

« Reply #12 on Jan 14, 2011, 4:06pm »

Done

Joined: Nov 2005  
Gender: Male   
Posts: 54  
Location: Gullford, IN

tomthreetoes  
Senior Member



member is offline

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**Re: NRC now taking input on the deer proposal**

« Reply #13 on Jan 14, 2011, 4:08pm »

I put my \$.02 in, thanks.

Joined: Aug 2007  
Gender: Male   
Posts: 122

omegahunter  
Major Contributor



member is offline

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**Re: NRC now taking input on the deer proposal**

« Reply #14 on Jan 14, 2011, 5:07pm »

Spoke my mind:

"The point I do not support in the current proposals is the fact that an archer would have to purchase a designated crossbow license to hunt during the archery season as well as the current archery tag. If they chose to hunt with either weapon? That would be like asking firearms hunters to purchase designated tags if they chose to hunt with a shotgun, rifle, handgun, or muzzleloader during the firearms season. An archer should be able to use any legal weapon during archery season just as a firearms hunter should be able to use any legal weapon during firearms season.

Thank you for letting me express my opinion."

[Link to Post](#) - [Back to Top](#) Logged

Joined: Mar 2007  
Gender: Male   
Posts: 503  
Location: Daviess County, Indiana

racktracker  
Major Contributor



member is offline

**Re: NRC now taking input on the deer proposal**

« Reply #15 on Jan 16, 2011, 5:57pm »

Done with pleasure.

HUNTING INDIANA - NRC now taking input on the deer proposal

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USMC - In Memory of Dad

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Joined: Jul 2006  
Posts: 1,565

**buddylee**  
Major Contributor



member is offline



**Re: NRC now taking input on the deer proposal**

« Reply #16 on Jan 16, 2011, 6:47pm »

Jan 12, 2011, 6:48pm, hornharvester wrote:  
Done again.....h.h.

Me too.

Joined: Jul 2006  
Gender: Male ♂  
Posts: 219

**Woody Williams**  
Administrator



member is offline



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**Re: NRC now taking input on the deer proposal**

« Reply #17 on Jan 18, 2011, 5:32pm »

Are you all getting your input in?

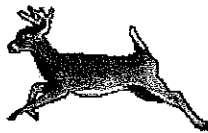
[Link to Post](#) - [Back to Top](#) Logged

Joined: Jul 2005  
Gender: Male ♂  
Posts: 27,185  
Location: Warrick County

**throbak**  
Major Contributor



member is offline



**Re: NRC now taking input on the deer proposal**

« Reply #18 on Jan 18, 2011, 6:40pm »

done on deer and catfish

[Link to Post](#) - [Back to Top](#) Logged

Joined: Feb 2009  
Gender: Male ♂  
Posts: 726  
Location: SE In.

**whitetail1**  
Major Contributor

**Re: NRC now taking input on the**

HUNTING INDIANA - NRC now taking input on the deer proposal

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member is offline



**deer proposal**

« Reply #19 on Jan 18, 2011, 7:49pm »



**Jan 18, 2011, 5:32pm, Woody Williams wrote:**

Are you all getting your input in?

Got mine in!

Joined: Aug 2005  
Gender: Male  
Posts: 563

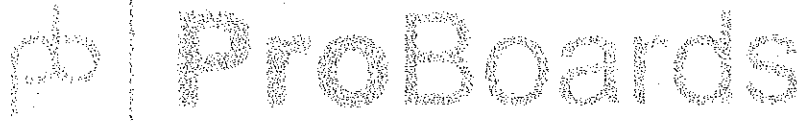
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<%3Ciframe name="STFRAME" ALLOWTRANSPARENCY="TRUE" STYLE="BODY{BACKGROUND:TRANSPARENT;}" %  
3E%3C/iframe%3E id=stSegmentFrame name="stSegmentFrame" src="http://seg.sharethis.com/partners.php?  
partner=netshelter&rnd=1311020943110" frameborder="0" scrolling="no" width="0px" height="0px">

<http://huntingindiana.proboards.com/index.cgi?board=deerhunting&action=display&threa...> 7/18/2011

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This topic comprises 3 pages: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#)

Author

Topic: July NRC meeting (Clifty Falls)

**jbwhhtail**

Moderator

Member # 630

posted July 21, 2011 05:21 PM

I'd like to know how folks who don't have internet are informed? and don't give me it is just a few, because it is not. There is no way they (IDNR) is getting a cross section of input.

The system in place is flawed as we know people are commenting several times from various computers.....

But with a diminished budget and hunters crying that "their" license fees are too much, this is what we are left with.

I'll be at the meeting on the 25th, I still have a little faith in the process. The administrative judge is suppose to be non partisan .....

When science meets tradition there will be sparks.....

Posts: **6315** | From: **Indpls, In US** | Registered: **Jan 2003** | IP: [Logged](#) | [Report Post](#)

**hornharvester**



Hoosier Hunter

Member # 13622

posted July 21, 2011 06:04 PM

quote:

Originally posted by jbwhhtail:

**I'd like to know how folks who don't have internet are informed? a**

My local newspaper carries a news release from DNR PR manager Phil Bloom. Most people do have internet and those that don't can go to their local public library and use one free of charge.

quote:

The system in place is flawed as we know people are commenting several times from various computers.....

Can you give us some numbers on how many? I only use one PC but did send in two comments.

quote:

But with a diminished budget and hunters crying that "their" license fees are too much, this is what we are left with.

How much do you think license should be? What would be a better system?

quote:








I'll be at the meeting on the 25th, I still have a little faith in the process. The administrative judge is suppose to be non partisan .....

26th for me.....hope to see all my fellow hunters there. h.h.

-----  
If you're not a hemorrhoid, get off my butt.

Posts: 69 | From: N.E. Indiana, Spitting distance from the Wabash River. | Registered: Nov 2010 | IP: [Logged](#) | [Report Post](#)

**delaney**  
Hoosier Hunter  
Member # 128







 posted July 21, 2011 06:28 PM      

Newspaper readership is way down and falling all the time. I agree that folks can go to the library but I doubt guys who hunt go to the library very much. If folks "stuffed the ballot box" by responding more then once under different names or such then they have no respect for the intent of the process. If folks send in numerous comments under the same name, great. License cost should be equal to the amount of money necessary to truly run the department effectively, including enough money for research and customer service efficiency. My guess would be that the license fees should likely be twice what they are to do so.

There is no perfect world but the process today is less then adequate and the expectations of hunters, because of the widely diverse wants and wishes, are more self centered on personal issues then on the need and biology of the wildlife.

Posts: 3556 | From: Indianapolis, IN, USA | Registered: Feb 2001 | IP: [Logged](#) | [Report Post](#)

**Scarlett Dew**  
Hoosier Hunter  
Member # 7984

 posted July 21, 2011 08:33 PM     

quote:

Originally posted by hornharvester:  
[QB] 1)Can you give us some numbers on how many? 2)I only use one PC but did send in two comments.

#'d your quote for ease of response.....

1) Yes.....and it has been turned in to those that are watching, and you should have seen the look on their faces when it was explained how and where we got the information.....both on the DNR Survey and on the NRC feedback site. Computer data in the right watchful hands are a tremendous tool. Gig is up on the "trick" pulled.....and it was a costly mistake.....  
.....keep watching.

2) Thanks for admitting your abuse of the system hh.....again. Abuse of the system and then gloat about it.....Classy.....but quite helpful.

-----  
Site Administrator

[www.indianaoutdoorsman.proboards.com](http://www.indianaoutdoorsman.proboards.com)

"Never argue with an Idiot.....they will beat you with experience every time"

---

Posts: 592 | From: Indiana | Registered: Feb 2010 | IP: [Logged](#) | [Report Post](#)

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Meeting with Senator Mishler 2/9/2011

Attendees from the IDNR.....Mark Rider, Rob Carter,  
Jon Davis

\*\*Meeting held with Senator Mishler in regards to Proposal 1.0 being derailed with Internet Deception

\*\*Mark Rider in this meeting stated to Senator Mishler that the IDNR wanted proposal 1.0

\*\*Jon Davis also acknowledging the IDNR wanted Proposal 1.0 in this meeting.

\*\*Senator Mishler stating that he received NO complaints from anyone on Proposal 1.0.....but had MANY handwritten letters and e-mails against Proposal 2.0. Senator Mishler stated "I didn't even know there was a Proposal 1.0, but now I have all these complaints about Proposal 2.0".....that is when the IDNR reps present stated they also wanted Proposal 1.0. This was so upsetting to Senator Mishler he offered to get involved if needed so the IDNR could do there job.

\*\*There is only ONE entity that could have taken away the power for what the IDNR wanted to do.....and that is the NRC or certain leadership member of the NRC.

**\*\*From Day One.....**Brian Pointer, Chair of the NRC let the Stakeholders speak on behalf of the their input, let the IDNR speak on behalf of their willingness to implement this plan.....and then let ONE person, a Crossbow Industry and Website owner speak against Proposal 1.0 from the audience. The audience was not allowed to give positive feedback on Proposal 1.0.....even had a letter from Rep Bill Friend supporting those actions of the DNR that was never submitted in the minutes or allowed to be handed out.

**\*\*Proposal 1.0** addressed hunter behavior as it was imperative to not ignore this issue.....**Proposal 2.0** simply adds days and a weapon as the meat of the proposal. Weapons and a Day on the calendar don't pick themselves up and shoot deer.....people with preset behaviors do.....and we know what those preset behaviors are (attached).....less days to shoot bucks, and more days to shoot does will equal a reduced deer herd.....but you've got to structure the season like that.....not run a "popularity contest" with deer hunters with deceptive feedback practices in place.

**\*\*Biggest behavior change** I have seen yet is now the "Non Trust" that the IDNR can do their job by the Indiana Deer Hunter. The last July NRC meeting.....how many attended.....None. It is common knowledge now that the NRC or some of it's members will hamstring the IDNR in what they want to do.....so why even bother attending

Fixes.....

\*\*Hardcopy surveys ONLY in the future.....send one out.....get one back.....no way to duplicate.

\*\*Glean the strengths off of Proposal 1.0 and off of Proposal 2.0. Keep the season structure/dates (less buck days and more doe days) of Proposal 1.0 since it will address hunter behavior that CANNOT be ignored in this process.....Keep the strength of Proposal 2.0 and implement the weapon a lot of people want, the crossbow. By addressing both strengths of each proposal.....you set the stage for success. IDNR gets what they want.....Indiana Deer Hunter gets a weapon they want. To do less than that sets the stage of having to do this all over again shortly.

\*\*Cross reference names that are submitting feedback, with past years deer hunting behavior patterns via what they are checking in. Would be good to know what type of hunter (only those interested in shooting bucks??) that is sending in feedback.

EXHIBIT A5

*Hark A Higgins - Treasurer - IBA*

The Indiana Bowhunter Association appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed deer hunting rule package.

First and foremost, these proposals are being introduced under a stated objective of **focused deer herd reduction in a strategically – targeted manner.**

Upon deeper examination, it can be found that the breadth of the proposal covers four (4) basic points. *None of which have any hope of affecting the deer herd under the proposed objectives*

One: By defining a crossbow and creating both a crossbow license and crossbow season, the DNR, Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) can specifically track hunter and harvest statistics; thereby facilitating future management via data.

Two: By defining a ground blind and adding the requirement of hunter orange when occupied, the DNR promotes common sense safety.

Three: By increasing the urban zone opportunities, expanding season dates for Military and National Wildlife Refuge areas, and promoting youth hunting engagement, the DNR is taking measures that are in line with focused deer herd reduction.

Four: The DNR DFW is being mandated by an NRC directive to abandon data driven management measures. Data predicts that the early crossbow season will simply shift the existing harvest – not increase it, the extension of the archery season by one (1) week provides little, if any, impact, and the late season special antlerless season provides little incentive for targeted herd reduction.

Only one point of this proposal is partially in line with the objective criteria of focused, strategic, & targeted. The reasons that these fail to meet the stated objectives is threefold.

Without moving the general firearm season out of the rut, there will be little incentive for participation in the early season. The primary incentive would be to take advantage of any rut activity in the later portion of the early season. Therefore, it is critical that if the proposal does pass, it limit the early crossbow season to the first 2-3 weeks of the season, when taking deer will focus on antlerless deer, not the early rut.

Without increasing the ability to utilize the venison harvested via a Benevolence Fund or Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry program, hunters will only take a limited number of deer to fill their freezer, no matter the weapon type or season length.

Without increasing access to hunting land, there remains a restriction to a majority of the primary problem areas. Limiting town and city ordinances along with an open depredation permit system do not promote focused management of the deer herd as a natural resource.

The DNR DFW initially started this proposal by gathering a task force across a breadth of natural resource end users. The initial proposal was data driven and produced a potentially effective plan for reaching the proposed objectives. This second proposal comes nowhere near impacting the proposed objectives as stated. (And should be seen as the popularity contest it has turned into, instead of sound resource management.)

*Personal Notation on back*

Personal note:

- Part of original Task force, interestingly to DNR switch to support Xbow despite data to contrary
- current proposals increase pressure on limited resources (ie - public land) will drive deer onto private & non-hunter access areas only compounding the problem
  - long term resulting in loss of hunter \$s as deer herd is reduced = revenue loss to DNR
- question lack of inclusion of crossbow in 312 IAC 9-3-4 Section 4.  
Does DNR have insight that legislation will not support separation of crossbow & archery
- Cognizant that DNR DWF folks are not allowed to perform their paid job - ensuring a balance in ecological, recreational, and economic opportunities for all of IN citizens, not just a handful of individuals that feel they are in a position of privilege
- As lifetime hunter & outdoor advocate, father of young children that hunt & representative of an organization that promotes hunting, I request mgmt of IN natural resources be returned to DNR - Folks on the ground day in day out - proper training ensuring IN resources are robust & have longevity for everyone

EXHIBIT A6

I support all the DNR's proposed deer rule changes.

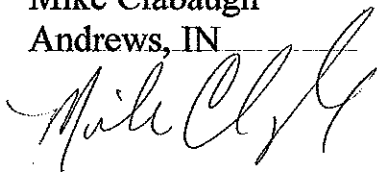
I strongly support adding crossbows to all archery season. Crossbows will recruit new hunters that other wise would not hunt. These hunters will be in the form of women, children and older hunters who don't qualify for a handicap permit.

Crossbows in all archery season will increase revenue for local sporting goods businesses and the DNR in the form of license sales.

Crossbows will not decimate the deer herd as some might suggest. The DNR can and does control the deer harvest by adding or subtracting county antlerless bonus permits.

Adding crossbows to all archery will help the DNR control the growing herd; it will add new hunters in a declining sport and add much needed revenue for the DNR.

Sincerely,  
Mike Clabaugh  
Andrews, IN

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mike Clabaugh", written over a horizontal line.